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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/622,916	07/17/2003	Giorgio Vergani	59183-8027.US06	2748

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EXAMINER

LANGEL WAYNE A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1754

DATE MAILED: 04/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/622,916	VERGANI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Wayne Langel	1754	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED. 35 U.S.C. § 133.
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 February 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 69-89 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 69-89 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 87 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

*u*

Claims 69-89 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. There is no "description support" in the original specification for all the limitations recited in claims 69-89. For example, in claim 69 there is no support for producing the oxides of iron and manganese by thermally reducing hydroxides of iron and manganese. In claim 70, there is no support for pretreating by adding zeolites. In claims 71, 72, 76, 77 and 81, there is no support for the temperature limitations recited therein. In claims 73, 78 and 83, there is no support for pretreating salts of iron and manganese to produce hydroxides of iron and manganese. In claim 82, there is no support for providing zeolites in contact with the getter material. In claim 79, there is no support for getting "at least" oxygen contaminants from the stream of ammonia. In claims 84-86, there is no support for reducing the levels of oxygen to the recited values. In claim 89, there is no support for flowing the stream of gaseous ammonia over a dryer material.

Claims 69-89 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 69, line 4, there is no antecedent basis for "said oxides". In claim 79, line 4, there is no antecedent basis for "oxygen contaminants". In claim 70, it is indefinite as to what is being treated in the "pretreatment step". In claims 73 and 83, it is indefinite as to whether the "hydroxides of iron and

Art Unit: 1754

manganese" would necessarily be the "hydroxides of iron and manganese" as recited in claims 69 and 79, respectively.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

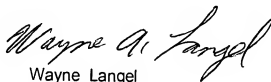
Claims 69-89 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Kobayashi et al (of record). Kobayashi et al disclose a method which includes the step of passing ammonia over a catalyst which may comprise Fe and Mn. (See the Abstract and col. 9, lines 47-56.) Oxygen contaminants would inherently be removed from the ammonia in the process of Kobayashi et al. Regarding claim 69, Kobayashi et al disclose a reaction temperature of 10 C to 0 C at col. 10, lines 34-37.

Claim 87 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 (b) in failing to differ substantially from claim 79, in that the stream would inherently be contacted with the getter material in the process recited in claim 79.

Claim 1 is allowed

Art Unit: 1754

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Wayne Langel  
at telephone number 571-272-1353.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Wayne A. Langel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "L" and "A".

Wayne Langel  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1754